

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 OMB-01 NEA-10 DRC-01 /214 W

----- 079079

R 091234Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4660

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON TNC PROCEDURES

1. AMBASSADOR EBERLE MET WITH DE MOREL, DIRECTOR OF DREE
AND FRENCH REP ON ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 8 FOR
INFORMAL DISCUSSION TNC PROBLEMS. EBERLE EXPLAINED RATIONALE
FOR PRESIDENT'S RELUCTANT DECISION TO ASK HOUSE TO DELAY ACTION
ON TRADE BILL. HE SAID THIS MEANT THAT REAL NEGOTIATIONS COULD
NOW PROBABLY NOT BEGIN UNTIL SOMETIME DURING THE PERIOD
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NOVEMBER 74-JANUARY 75. THE QUESTION WAS HOW WE MANAGED

TNC IN THE MEANTIME.

2. IN DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, DE MOREL AGREED THAT THERE WAS USEFUL PREPARATORY WORK THAT COULD BE DONE IN TNC. (THIS WAS IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH VIEW WHICH BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, HAD EXPRESSED TO UNDER SECRETARY CASEY NOVEMBER 7 TO EFFECT THAT MOST OF THE REAL GROUNDWORK HAD BEEN DONE LONG AGO. BRUNET SEEMED TO CONSIDER THAT IT WAS AN EXCESS OF ZEAL TO TRY TO KEEP THE TNC OCCUPIED UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN.) AT THE SAME TIME, DE MOREL MADE CLEAR A STRONG FRENCH PREFERENCE FOR USING EXISTING GATT COMMITTEES DURING PREPARATORY PHASE IF DISAGREEMENT ON COMPETENCE OF NEW WORKING GROUPS COULD NOT BE RESOLVED.

3. ACCORDING TO DE MORAL, ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE HAD AGREED UNANIMOUSLY AT ITS NOVEMBER 7 MEETING THAT EC SHOULD STICK TO ITS GUNS IN INSISTING THAT AGRICULTURE COULD BE DISCUSSED ONLY IN AGRICULTURAL GROUP. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE HAD ALSO AGREED UNANIMOUSLY THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO FIND SOME WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE. THE COMMITTEE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL THAT INFORMAL U.S/EC/JAPAN DISCUSSIONS BE ORGANIZED BY LONG IN EFFORT TO FIND A SOLUTION. DE MOREL SAID GOF WAS FULLY PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS.

4. DE MOREL SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE ON WHAT POSITION THE EC SHOULD TAKE IF THESE DISCUSSIONS DID NOT LEAD TO A SOLUTION. SOME REPRESENTATIVES FAVORED ACCEPTING THE LONG COMPROMISE PROPOSAL THAT THE TNC BE CONSTITUTED INTO A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, WHEREAS THE GOF FAVORED USING EXISTING GATT STRUCTURES.
DECON DECEMBER 31, 1976.

IRWIN

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